

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

IOWA ARTS  
COUNCIL

PRODUCE  
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

# IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA



## Commemorate Iowa's 175th Anniversary of Statehood with the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs

Iowa will mark a major milestone this year: 175 years of statehood on Dec. 28.

We invite you to join us during our year-long commemoration of Iowa history and explore how the past impacts the present and the future, especially through history, art, music, literature and film.

Kick off the year-long commemoration by joining us online via Zoom for a new series of "Iowa History 101" webinars:

### **Iowa's Native Nations – Jan. 14, noon-1 p.m.**

Join Lance Foster of the Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska as he discusses the Native Nations and Peoples.



*A road sign welcoming travelers to Iowa in 1960.*

[LEARN MORE](#)

### **Tales of the Territory – Jan. 28, noon-1 p.m.**

State Curator Leo Landis will discuss topics about the Iowa territory, before Iowa officially became a state in 1846.

### **Immigration to Iowa – Feb. 11, noon-1 p.m.**

Iowa State University Professor Jeff Bremer will talk about immigration to Iowa in the 19th and 20th centuries and share personal stories of immigrants.

### **Iowa's Black Migration: Into, Around, Out Of, and Back Again – Feb. 25, noon-1 p.m.**

Genealogist Ricki King, owner of Roots to Branches Genealogy, will present a journey of Iowa's Black history illustrating the reasons why people or families moved in and out of Iowa from the beginning of its statehood.

[Learn more](#) about these and other programs commemorating Iowa's 175th anniversary of statehood.



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## Junior Curator Day Camp

Young historians in grades 4-6 can learn what it takes to run a museum during the Junior Curator Day Camp. They'll explore the role of curators, conservators and exhibition designers, and investigate artifacts, explore the State Historical Museum of Iowa's collection and learn about Iowa history. Students also will design their own exhibit. **The camp is offered June 23, July 14 and Aug. 4.**

## Young Writer's Workshop Returns by Popular Demand

The popular Young Writers' Workshop returns this summer for a week of exciting adventure. Students entering grades 7-12 will work with a nationally-known young adult author to hone and refine their writing skills using artifacts, exercises, research and storytelling tips. The students will end the week by giving a performance of their stories. **The workshop is 9 a.m.-4 p.m. June 14-18.**



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[SUBMIT AN ITEM](#)

## Collecting Covid-19 Artifacts

Last year, the State Historical Society of Iowa invited Iowans to submit both physical and digital artifacts to show future historians how the Covid-19 pandemic affected work, school, family traditions and everyday life in Iowa. As the country continues to grapple with the virus, we are requesting Iowans continue to submit images, artifacts and stories that will help chronicle the pandemic's widespread impact here in Iowa. [Read more on the Iowa History blog.](#)

## Goldie's History Kits

Goldie the Goldfinch is sticking around this winter to offer an array of new online materials for students and teachers. Check out the newest batch of Goldie's

History Kits, which align with the Iowa Core Social Studies Standards and highlight artifacts from the State Historical Society of Iowa's collection.

- **Kindergarten:** "Children's Lives: Comparing Long Ago to Today."
- **First Grade:** "Meskwaki Culture."
- **Fourth Grade:** "The Great Depression and Dust Bowl."



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## Nominations: SHSI Board Awards and Election

The State Historical Society of Iowa is accepting nominations for its Excellence in Iowa History Awards and for members to serve on its 12-person board of trustees.

**The Excellence in Iowa History Awards** recognize individuals, organizations and communities that made outstanding contributions to the study and practice of Iowa history during 2020, as well as outstanding publications, local history initiatives and significant, long-term achievements in Iowa history. **Nominations are due Feb. 1.**



*2018 Excellence in Iowa History Award recipients Pella Historical Society and Wallace Winkie Foundation with Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg.*

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**Board of Trustees nominations** can be submitted by anyone, but nominees must be members of the State Historical Society of Iowa, willing to attend five meetings per year and serve on various committees. **Board nominations are due March 1.**



## Rural Revitalization Grants

### National Trust for Historic Preservation Grants

All too often, history has overlooked the role African American sites have played in the broader story of America. To help, the National Trust for Historic Preservation created the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and is now offering grants of \$50,000 to \$150,000 to support ongoing preservation activities for historic sites, museums and landscapes that



The State Historic Preservation Office is accepting applications for Iowa's Rural Heritage Revitalization Grants program. Iowa's local governments and nonprofits that own properties on the National Register of Historic Places are eligible to apply for grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$125,000. **Apply by Feb. 1.**

represent African American cultural heritage. **Letters of intent are due Jan. 15.**

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*Pictured: The Hitchcock House, a stop on the Underground Railroad, in Lewis, Iowa.*

[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

## National Park Service Grants

**History of Equal Rights Grants** help preserve sites associated with America's history of equal rights. The grants include the broadest possible interpretation of sites associated with efforts to achieve equal rights, including architectural services, historic structure reports, preservation plans, physical preservation to structures and more.

**Applications are due Jan. 12.**



[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

The **African American Civil Rights Grant Program** is expanding to include the documentation, interpretation and preservation of sites that tell a fuller story of the struggle for African American civil rights. **Applications are due Jan. 12.**



[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

The next round of **Save America's Treasures** grants is open, in two different project categories: preservation and collections. Preservation projects must involve properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places or designated as a National Historic Landmark. Collections projects may include artifacts, museum collections, documents,



sculptures and other works of art. **Applications are due Jan. 26.**

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## Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credits Impact Economy



A Rutgers University study shows federal historic preservation tax credits made a significant impact on national and state economies in 2019. In many parts of the country, a \$1 million investment in historic rehabilitation yielded better results on employment, income, GDP and state and local tax revenues than an equal investment in new construction or several other economic activities, such as manufacturing or services. **See how Iowa fared among the other states.**

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